

Imam Nawawi's Etiquette with the Quran

Part one of six

(Jakallah Khair Ibrahim Marozzi for initial notes. This is not meant to replace the book by Imam Nawawi this is just some notes; please read Musa Furber's translation.)

The first etiquette for the student of the Quran, like the teacher is a sincere intention for Allah Subhanu wa ta'ala

Ensure that you set aside a time for you to study (read) the Quran, without distraction from family, work, etc.

Hearts need to read to receive, to be a receptacle for the Quran

Sickness needs to be removed

Allah Subhanu wa ta'ala will teach you when you practice the inward and outward

This is general, for every science

Etiquettes of the student

He has manners with his teacher, even if the teacher is younger or less known

He humbles himself for knowledge – recognising that Allah Subhanu wa ta'ala has deposited the Quran in him

By being humble, he will attain knowledge

You should only study from someone who is qualified to teach – his religion is apparent and his is a person of caution

Necessity of Isnad (chain of transmission)

The student should have the up most respect for the teacher

Even if the teacher is capable and you do not have trust, it will get to you

One of the predecessors – would go to a lesson and give charity and make a supplication, "O'Allah, hide the faults of my teacher from me and do not cause the blessings to leave."

The story of the student of Imam Shafi would not drink a glass of water in front of him – out of veneration of Imam Shafi

No pointing, do not turn away from him, when you see he is tired, don't insist, when you come to a lesson behave with the best manners, have wudu, be clean, use siwak and sure that your thoughts don't wander

Don't come unexpected

Don't climb over the necks of people, to come forward. If you come early then come forward, if you come late then stay back, don't request people to leave their places for you

Sit in that gathering as a student even if you are teacher

Don't come to study if you know the sheikh is preoccupied

Don't come to him when there is anything that might affect his condition

Look over any harshness of the teacher

If you see inappropriate things, according to the Sunna, understand he is much better than you

When you see harshness from him, accuse yourself of being the cause of this

Be patient with the harshness that comes from the scholar

He, who doesn't taste the bitterness of study, will bear the humiliation of ignorance, for the rest of his life

Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) said, "I humbled myself as a student and as a teacher I was honoured."

This is the case of the religion of the Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him)

The desire of holding knowledge is the ultimate knowledge

Don't burden yourself – take on board what you can

When you have the ability and the time – learn

Before you are given position of authority, learn for when it comes people will follow you and will have no time

Abu Hanifa (may Allah show him mercy) said, "A judge should only be a judge for a year, he will not have time for his afterlife."

It's best to study early in the day

Repetition is the key to the memorisation of the Quran

Do not have any envy for any colleague

Ghipta is good envy – this envy is have what someone has and you don't want it to be removed

Avoid “I’ananiya” selfishness

Cures for this – a simple cure what your self is to remember its from Allah Subhanu wa ta’ala

Ijihad is a reason but Allah Subhanu wa ta’ala is the one giving reasons

Humble yourself in front of Allah Subhanu wa ta’ala remove pride

Second sickness – Allah Subhanu wa ta’ala has wisdom for giving certain person knowledge of the Quran

When you have bad envy – it is being displeased with the decree of Allah Subhanu wa ta’ala

Etiquette of the Quran

Part two of six

Purify intention

Intention should not be that you gain the world with it, neither Money, Fame and position (prayer leader)

Abu Hurayrah narrates that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, “Its one of the honours of the world.” Authentic narration

Whoever learns knowledge does it only for the pleasure of Allah Subhanu wa ta’ala – the one who does it for the world – he will not smell the scent of heaven

He will not have what he intended

Beware of having a dislike for students in your heart, who go to learn from other than you

This is a proof of a wrong intention

Your intention should be for Allah Subhanu wa ta’ala

Allah Subhanu wa ta’ala selects this teacher for that person, Allah Subhanu wa ta’ala decides

Some people will carry knowledge but it doesn't go past their throats. Their action is not in accordance to their knowledge

Internal is not in accordance with the external

Allah Subhanu wa ta'ala chooses the people who carry knowledge

A teacher has to have patience with the errors of his students

He should be wary of the diseases of the heart, to envy etc

The teacher especially needs to be purified of these

He should have a constant state

He should know that Allah Subhanu wa ta'ala knows what is in the hearts, he sees inside it and as known before creation

Etiquettes of the teacher

Abu Sa'ed Al-Khudri used to say welcome, when people came to his gathering

People will follow you in time, and people will come from all places of the earth, welcome them

Part of the advice of the teacher is to encourage him to study and he should advise him to decrease his attachment to the world

Teach him as your own child and forgive bad manners

Dislike what you dislike for yourself

Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) said about one of students, "I am bothered when a fly comes to him."

He should remind him constantly to persist on what purifies his intention

If this happens Allah Subhanu wa ta'ala will open doors of knowledge for him

Etiquette with the Quran **Part three of six**

Bearers of the Quran

Should maintain the best of states, avoid prohibitions – more than an average believer

Avoid people of arrogance

He humbles himself in front of the righteous

He should raise himself above others because Allah Subhanu wa ta'ala

The memorizer (Hafiz) should rely solely on Allah Subhanu wa ta'ala

He frequently recites the Quran

Some used to finish it in two months, one month, ten days, eight days, six nights, five days, four days, three days, two days, every night and day

One did 8 in a day, four in the daytime and four during the night, Imam Nawawi (may Allah show him mercy) said this was the most that he came across

Uthman ibn Affan, Said Ibn Jubair and Tamim Ad-Dari (may Allah be pleased with them) used to finish it in one unit/rakat – there were many who did this

If he can absorb the meanings of the Quran, it's permissible to finish the Quran in three days – but he should lessen if he becomes bored

If a man does a Khatam (completing a reading) in the day, Angels will ask for forgiveness until the night, if in the night, until the morning

The honour of the believer is in night worship

The nights have blessings i.e. the night journey

A little prayer is as good as a lot.

It's disliked to worship the entire night

If a person forgets a sura or an Ayah it is considered to be a big sin

The Quran will leave you if you don't revise it

It's like a person who holds a tied camel, if he guards it, it will be safe and if he lets go, he will lose it

The rewards of the umma were shown to him and the smallest good was removing something from the Masjid and the worst sin was forgetting a portion of the Quran

There was a companion who would recite Sura Baqarah every night, he fell asleep and when he realised, he treated it as a calamity. In a dream a cow was attacking him

The first etiquette of the Quran is sincerity

Question your intention

When or if you realise that you are doing it for other than Allah Subhanu wa ta'ala then repent

The companions took all the warnings as if Allah was speaking directly to them

Etiquette with the Quran

Part four of six

Etiquette of recitation

Use Miswak before reciting

If you are bleeding its better to treat the wound that's in your mouth

You must have ablution to touch an ayah

Reciting from memory is permitted – without wudu but its better not to (Khilaf Al-Awla) but not a menstruating woman or those in major ritual impurity – they can think about the Sura and look at the Quran

Only touching the Quran and prayer are not permissible

It's permitted to recite the Quran without intention of reciting

When reciting the Quran you should be in a clean place i.e. Masjid

A Tabeen said, "Allahs remembrance should only be done in a clean place."

It's disliked to recite the Quran whilst tired

When reading the Quran you should the Qibla

You can be in any posture of sitting, on your side

Its best to leave a reciter to it, don't disturb them

You would have to seek refuge (adhdu....) again if disturbed

When reading a new sura read Bismillah with the exception of Sura Tawba – it's disliked here. Sura Tawba is seen an extension of Sura Namal

Be humble and reflect on the words

Reflection is the goal, the purpose

The companions used to read the Quran over and over again not for the sake of finishing it

A man came to see Abu Hanafi, he found him constantly repeating the last line of Sura Zilzala – "And anyone who has done an atom's weight of evil, shall see it." The man left and came back at Fajr and he could hear him crying out, "O' Lord if you forgive Numan that's enough."

Ibrahim Al-Khouwas said, “The medicine of the heart is five, Reading with Quran and reflecting, having an empty stomach, night prayer, supplication in the last third of the night and sitting with the righteous.”

The ultimate sickness is heedlessness

The final revelation was, “Fear the day which you return to Allah.” This was after the ayahs of interest, Sura Nasr was the last complete sura

Why are we not able to cry in front of Allah Subhanu wa ta’ala?

Dry eyes indicates a dry heart

After the angel takes out the soul – its one ordeal after another – you die, you go to the grave where you are questioned, you are resurrected and your book is given to you, you have to cross the sirat (bridge over hell to get to heaven)

If you expose people's sins Allah Subhanu wa Ta’ala exposes your sins in front of all of mankind

Weeping when reciting the Quran is the sign of a Gnostic

Umar and Ali (may Allah be pleased with them) used to have marks on their faces because they cried a lot

One of the Tabeen said that Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) had channels on his face like sandal straps because of crying

Imam Ghazali (may Allah show him mercy) said it's recommended to cry when reciting the Quran, bring grief into your heart, over the punishment.

When you see the characteristics of the people of hell, weep and rectify yourself

Potentially we could all be thrown into hell

Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) wasn't satisfied with one foot in heaven and he was promised it

He still wasn't convinced

Don't talk to people

No fighting whilst reading

The Quran is a conversation with Allah Subhanu wa ta’ala be careful

Maintain the order of the Quran – the order cannot be changed

In the prayer you can skip two chapters not one – this is disliked

It's better to read the Quran – double reward - than from memory

It preferred to recite in a loud voice than a low voice

Abu Musa Al-Ashari (may Allah be pleased with him) recited and the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to listen to him

Etiquette with the Quran **Part five of six**

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, “Beatify the Quran with your voices.”

The account (hisaab – on the day of judgement) can only begin after the Messengers (upon them peace) have confirmed that they have delivered the message, then the account starts

It's extremely disliked to read Quran in bowing and prostration

Do not read in the toilet

If you are reciting from memory and are about to break wind, stop

According the Musnad of Abi Shayba, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) never yawned

Once in a lifetime it's necessary to send blessings upon the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)

Imam Tahawi said it should be said all the time

If you are reciting and sneeze you can say Alhamdulillah and return to it – in the prayer when you sneeze and say Alhamdulillah it's ok but to respond breaks the prayer

In the 3rd and 4th rakat unit, if you miss the Quran recitation, the prayer is okay - Fard prayer – its Sunna to read a sura here

It's desired to read the Quran in a loud tone

Etiquette of the Quran **Part six of six**

Recommended times for recitation and circumstances for recitation

There is no time that recitation of the Quran is disliked

The best time to read the Quran in prayer

Read after Fajr

Monday, Thursday, the day of Arafat, and the first ten days of Dhul-Hajj

The best of months is Ramadan

When you have finished a recitation begin again with Sura Fatiha and the first 5 ayahs of the Quran

The best time to do finish recitation is the Fajr prayer

Abu Hanifa (may Allah show him mercy) said six months should not left without a completion of the recitation

It's recommended to fast on the day of the Khatam unless it's a time where it's prohibited day to fast on, the tabeen in Kufa did this

Abdullah ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) used to have a person who would find people who were about to do a Khatam (finish a recitation) and attend the gathering

Make a supplication after you have finished

4,000 angels make Ameen when the Quran is finished

The Quran is the speech of Allah Subhanu wa ta'ala – it does not resemble the speech of man

Take Admonition

We call people towards the Quran

Respect the Quran

It's prohibited to make an exegesis of the Quran – unless he has studied with scholars of the Quran

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, "Whoever interprets the Quran according to his opinion let him prepare his set in the hellfire."

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, "The best of works are Al-Hal and Al-Rihlet." He was asked, "What are they?" He said (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), "Beginning and finished the Quran."

Don't argue about the Quran

Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) said, "Which sky would shelter me, which earth will carry me, if I spoke about the book of Allah, that which I did not know."

Hassan Al-Basri, Mujtahid and Imam Al-Awazi (may Allah be pleased with them) said it's permissible to drink the ink for a cure

Sura Mulk protects against the punishment of the grave

Memorise this and Sura Yaseen

Reading the last three verses/ayahs of Sura Baqarah is like night prayer

(Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, "Do not make your homes graves, Satan hates the house which the Quran is recited." At-Tirmidhi

Reading Ayah Al-Kursi (Sura Baqarah ayah 255) once protects yourself, twice protects your house and thrice protects your area

You cannot touch the Quran without Wudu

The cover is part of the Quran

Ibn Jahala used to take the Quran and place it on his face and say, "This is the book of my Lord."